

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18661 171350Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5446

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18661

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: MORE ON THE GLEZER CASE

REF: A. MOSCOW 18546; B. MOSCOW A-381, OCT. 6, 1974

1. ART COLLECTOR ALEKSANDR GLEZER HELD UNOFFICIAL ART EXHIBIT IN HIS APARTMENT DECEMBER 15 TO PROTEST AUTHORITIES' RECENT ACTIONS AGAINST HIM (REF A). EXHIBIT WAS ATTENDED BY NUMBER OF NON-CONFORMIST ARTISTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS AND A FEW FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS. GLEZER HAD CALLED AROUND THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY TO TRY TO DRUM UP ATTENDEES. HE TOLD EMBOFF PRESENT THAT HE PLANS TO RUN EXHIBIT FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND THEN TO PUT ON "ONE EXHIBIT AFTER ANOTHER" UNTIL MILITIA AND KGB EITHER STOP HARASSING HIM OR LET HIM LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

2. GLEZER CONFIRMED GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SEARCH OF HIS APARTMENT AND HIS SUBSEQUENT DETENTION BY AUTHORITIES FOR ACTION AGAINST HIM WAS IN CONNECTION WITH CASES OF ART COLLECTOR VLADIMIR MOROZ (REF B), AND ANOTHE LOCAL COLLECTOR, BOTH OF WHOM ARE IN JAIL ON CHARGES OF SPECULATION IN ART OBJECTS AND FOREIGN CURRENCY.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18661 171350Z

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GLEZER MAY TO SOME EXTENT HAVE ARTISTIC FREEDOM IN MIND, HE IS ALSO PERSONALLY MOTIVATED. SEVERAL ARTISTS WHO KNOW HIM WELL HAVE POINTED OUT THAT HE, LIKE MANY OTHERS INVOLVED IN UNOFFICIAL ART WORLD, HAS PROBABLY ENGAGED IN EXTRA-LEGAL ACTIVITIES. HE ALSO WANTS TO EMIGRATE AND MAY FEEL HE CAN FORCE HIS WAY OUT BY BECOMING A CAUSE CELEBRE. SOME ARTISTS HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT HIS ACTIONS AND HAVE EXPRESSED THE FEELING THAT GLEZER MAY BE TRYING TO PUSH THEM TOO HARD AND TOO FAST FOR PERSONAL REASONS. MOST WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HIM, HOWEVER, BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THEIR RECENT DISPUTES WITH THE AUTHORITIES.

STOESSEL

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